

Amendment to the Specification:

Replace the Abstract on page 20 as follows:

--A method of partitioning an integrated circuit design for physical design verification includes steps of[: (a)] receiving as input a representation of an integrated circuit design having a number of physical design layers[; (b)] ~~and receiving as input~~ a composite run deck specifying rule checks to be performed on the integrated circuit design. ~~The[[; (c)]]~~ partitioning the composite run deck is partitioned into partitioned run decks so that the number of physical design layers referenced by each of the partitioned run decks is a minimum. ~~The[[; (d)]]~~ ~~parsing~~ the representation of the integrated circuit design is parsed to filter only the physical design layers required for each of the partitioned run decks into a filtered data deck for each of the partitioned run decks. ~~The[[;]] and (e) generating as output the filtered data deck is generated as output~~ for each of the partitioned run decks.--